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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/643,946	08/20/2003	Shuichi Kanno	ASA-1145	5406
24956 7590 10/31/2007 MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C. 1800 DIAGONAL ROAD SUITE 370 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER DUONG, THANH P	
			ART UNIT 1797	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 10/31/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/643,946

Applicant(s)

KANNO ET AL.

Examiner

Tom P. Duong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Tom Duong
10/24/07

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 16, 2007 has been entered.

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Publication 10-192653 (hereinafter JPN '653).

Regarding claim 6, JPN '653 discloses an apparatus (Figure 1) for treating a perfluorocompound comprising a means for obtaining a gas flow by diluting a perfluorocompound (via line 5) with nitrogen or air (3); a means for adding steam (4) to said gas flow; a reactor (decomposition reactor) for bringing said gas flow containing the

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added steam into contact with a catalyst (Section 0030) to decompose the perfluorocompound; a heating means (Section 0030) for heating said catalyst comprising Ni, Al and W as catalytically active ingredients (Section 0010) and comprising a composite oxide of Ni and Al and a composite oxide of Ni and W which has been packed in said reactor, to the decomposition temperature (Section 0030) of the perfluorocompound; and an exhaust gas washing tank (Section 0030) for bringing a gas containing decomposition products produced in said reactor into contact with water or an alkali (Section 0030) to remove hydrogen fluoride from the gas. With respect to the number of W is less than a mole number of Ni, and the mole number of Ni is less than a mole number of Al. JPN '653 discloses the catalysts contain composites of AL (75-98 wt%) and 0.1-10% weight of at least one components including W and Ni.

Depend on the decomposition activity (Section 0010 and 0012), it would be a *prima facie* obviousness if W is selected less than 5% weight and Nickel is selected more than 5% weight. Thus, it would have been obvious in view of JPN '653 to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide composites with mole number for W less than Ni and Ni less than AL to achieve an optimum catalytic activity. Note, Applicants have not shown criticality or unexpected results for having a mole number of W is less than a mole number of Ni, and the mole number of Ni is less than a mole number of AL.

Regarding claim 7, JPN '653 discloses the apparatus of treating PFC succeed the etching process (Sections 0002, 0028, 0029).

Regarding claims 8 and 9, it appears that JPN '653 discloses the claimed range Ni/Al mole ratio with small percentage of W. JPN '653 discloses the catalysts contain

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composites of AL (75-98 wt%) and 0.1-10% weight of at least one components including W and Ni. Depend on the decomposition activity (Section 0010 and 0012), it would be a *prima facie* obviousness if the catalyst composite is made of 80% AL, 5% W and the balance 15% Nickel. Thus, it would have been obvious in view of JPN '653 to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide composites with the mole ratio of the claimed invention to achieve an optimum catalytic activity. Note, Applicants have not shown criticality or unexpected results for the claimed mole ratio.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 6-9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tom P. Duong whose telephone number is (571) 272-2794. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM - 4:30PM (IFP).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola can be reached on (571) 272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Tom Duong
October 24, 2007

